

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 ACDA-07 ERDA-05  
BIB-01 /092 W  
-----170550Z 100750 /14

R 161605Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8804  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
USMISSION BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USIA WASHDC

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BELGRADE ALSO FOR CSCE DEL

USDEL SALT TWO

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
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TAGS: SOPN, FR, UR  
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE

REF: (A) PARIS 17640, (B) MOSCOW 8141 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY APPRECIATES THOROUGH SUMMARY OF  
BREZHNEV INTERVIEW PROVIDED BY EMBASSY PARIS

(REFTEL A). INTERVIEW, WHICH APPEARS IN JUNE 16 PRAVDA, BREAKS NO NEW GROUND BUT IS CLEARLY INTENDED TO ENHANCE STATURE OF BREZHNEV AS A WORLD STATESMAN AS HE MOVES INTO SOVIET PRESIDENCY. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE ON OCCASION, BREZHNEV SUCCESSFULLY CONVEYS SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN SOVIET INTERNATIONAL POSITION AND ROLE. END SUMMARY.

2. WHILE MAKING APPROPRIATE GESTURES TO FRANCO-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, BREZHNEV SOUGHT TO USE HIS JUNE 16 INTERVIEW WITH LE MONDE TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF AN INTERNATIONAL STATESMAN, SPEAKING CONFIDENTLY AND FORCEFULLY ON MATTERS OF WORLD IMPORTANCE. THIS INTERVIEW CAN BE TAKEN AS PART OF THE BUILDUP GIVEN (OR TAKEN BY) BREZHNEV AS HE MOVES INTO THE SOVIET PRESIDENCY.

3. BREZHNEV DEALT WITH TWO SENSITIVE QUESTIONS WITH A LEAST A HINT OF DEFENSIVENESS. ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS HE REPEATED SOVIET DISAVOWALS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR POVERTY IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE ("THE CONSEQUENCES OF COLONIALISM"), INDICATING A CONTINUING SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ARRANGEMENTS TO AID THE POORER COUNTRIES.

4. BREZHNEV ALSO APPEARED SLIGHTLY UNEASY DEALING WITH A QUESTION CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE "STRUCTURAL CHANGES" CAUSED BY RAPID POPULATION GROWTH AMONG CERTAIN NATIONAL MINORITIES IN THE USSR. BREZHNEV LAPSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTO STEREOTYPED FORMULAS IN DEALING WITH THIS SENSITIVE PROBLEM AND AVERRED JOY AT THIS GROWTH AS A FURTHER BOOST FOR NATIONAL UNITY.

5. ON THE MIDDLE EAST BREZHNEV SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF US-SOVIET AGREEMENT TO WORK TOWARD THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. HE ALSO THREW A BONE TO THE FRENCH, CLAIMING THAT THE USSR HIGHLY VALUES THE FRENCH ROLE IN WORKING OUT A SOLUTION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

6. BREZHNEV SPOKE POSITIVELY ON DISARMAMENT AND CSCE, REPEATING STANDARD POSITIONS WITHOUT RANCOR. IN-DIRECTLY REFERRING TO SALT DISCUSSIONS BREZHNEV REPEATED THAT THE USSR WOULD NOT ACCEPT TERMS WHICH WOULD UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE.

7. ON THE IDEOLOGICAL FRONT BREZHNEV WAS UNBENDING AND TOOK THE LINE WHICH HAS BECOME A STANDARD ELEMENT

IN THE SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ARGUMENT, I.E., THAT THE  
"IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE" MUST CONTINUE BUT THAT IT MUST  
NOT BECOME "PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE." THIS HAS COME TO  
MEAN THAT SOVIET CRITICISM AND INTERFERENCE IN NON-  
COMMUNIST SOCIETIES IS THE "NORMAL" SITUATION, WHILE  
WESTERN CRITICISM OF SOVIET AND OTHER BLOC COUNTRIES  
IN HUMAN RIGHTS IS UNDESIRABLE "WARFARE." THE REFERENCE  
TO DETENTE NOT INHIBITING IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION  
ALSO HAS A SPECIFIC FRENCH CONTEXT, SINCE THE  
PRESENT FORMULATION (IN ESSENCE) WAS USED TO ANSWER  
GISCARD'S CALL DURING HIS OCTOBER 1975 VISIT FOR  
"DETENTE IN IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION."

8. OVERALL, BREZHNEV'S PERFORMANCE WAS AN ATTEMPT  
TO SHOW A CONCILIATORY AND MATURE STATESMAN SURVEYING  
THE INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE. HIS TONE AND THE  
LACK OF CRITICISM OF FRENCH POLICY IS IN SHARP  
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CONTRAST WITH HIS TV ADDRESS TO THE FRENCH ON MAY  
29, WHEN HE WAS CRITICAL OF FRENCH ARMS CONTROL AND  
NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES (REFTEL C). FINALLY,  
THE PUBLICATION OF THIS INTERVIEW ON THE DAY OF  
BREZHNEV'S APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF STATE WAS CLEARLY  
INTENDED TO GIVE HIGH-PROFILE PUBLIC COVERAGE TO  
BREZHNEV ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT AND TO ADD A FINAL  
POSITIVE NOTES TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR HIS VISIT TO FRANCE.  
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## Message Attributes

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